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(54) Title: 1- OR 3-THIA-BENZONAPHTHOAZULENES AS INHIBITORS OF TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR PRODUCTION AND INTERMEDIATES FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to 1- or 3-thiabenzonaphthoazulene derivatives to their pharmacologically acceptable salts and solvates, to processes and intermediates for the preparation thereof as well as to their antiinflammatory effects, especially to the inhibition of tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) production and the inhibition of interleukin-1 (IL-1) production as well as to their analgetic action.

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BENZONAPHTHOAZULENES AS INHIBITORS OF TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR PRODUCTION AND INTERMEDIATES FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF

Technical Field

The present invention relates to benzonaphthoazulene derivatives of thiophene class, to their pharmacologically acceptable salts and solvates, to processes and intermediates for the preparation thereof as well as to their antiinflammatory effects, especially to the inhibition of tumour necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) production and the inhibition of interleukin-1 (IL-1) production as well as to their analgetic action.

Prior Art

Some 1,3-diaza-dibenzoazulene derivatives and salts thereof are well-known as a novel class of compounds having an antiinflammatory action (US 3,711,489, US 4,198,421 and CA 967,573). In the literature, from the class of 1-thia-dibenzoazulenes there are disclosed derivatives substituted in 2-position with methyl, methyl-ketone, nitro group or with carboxylic group derivatives (Cagniant PG, *C. R. Hebd. Seances Acad. Sci.*, **1976**, 283:683-686), and 1-thia-dibenzoazulene derivatives having alkyloxy substituents in 2-position (WO 01/878990), which also possess a strong antiinflammatory action.

Well-known are also some benzonaphthoazulenes of the thiophene class such as 9,14-dihydro-9,14-dioxo-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulenes, wherein 3-position is substituted by a cyano group and in 2-position there may be amine, urea or acetamide as a substituent (Nyiondi-Bonguen E et al., *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, **1994**, 15:2191-2195). However, according to our knowledge and to available literature data, benzonaphthoazulenes of thiophene class of the present invention are not known. It is also not known that such compounds could possess an

antiinflammatory action as inhibitors of TNF- α secretion and inhibitors of IL-1 secretion as well as an analgetic action. In 1975 TNF- α was defined as a serum factor induced by endotoxin and causing tumour necrosis *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Carswell EA et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, **1975**, 72:3666-3670). Besides an antitumour action, TNF- α also possesses numerous other biological actions important in the homeostasis of organisms and in pathophysiological conditions. The main sources of TNF- α are monocytes-macrophages, T-lymphocytes and mastocytes.

The discovery that anti-TNF- α antibodies (cA2) have an action in treating patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) (Elliott M et al., *Lancet*, **1994**, 344:1105-1110) led to an increased interest in finding novel TNF- α inhibitors as possible potent drugs for RA. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune chronic inflammatory disease characterized by irreversible pathological changes in the joints. Besides in RA, TNF- α antagonists may also be used in numerous pathological conditions and diseases such as spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gout and other arthritic conditions, sepsis, septic shock, toxic shock syndrom, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, glomerulonephritis, lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, asthma, cachexia, chronic obstructive lung disease, congestive cardiac arrest, insulin resistance, lung fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, viral infections and AIDS.

Evidence for the biological importance of TNF- α was obtained by *in vivo* experiments in mice, in which mice gens for TNF- α or its receptor were inactivated. Such animals are resistant to collagen-induced arthritis (Mori L et al., *J. Immunol.*, **1996**, 157:3178-3182) and to endotoxin-caused shock (Pfeffer K et al., *Cell*, **1993**, 73:457-467). In animal assays where TNF- α level was increased, a chronic inflammatory polyarthritis occurred (Georgopoulos S et al., *J.Inflamm.*, **1996**, 46:86-97; Keffer J et al., *EMBO J.*, **1991**, 10:4025-4031) and its pathological picture was alleviated by inhibitors of TNF- α production. The treatment of such inflammatory and pathological conditions usually includes the application of non-steroid antiinflammatory drugs and, in more severe

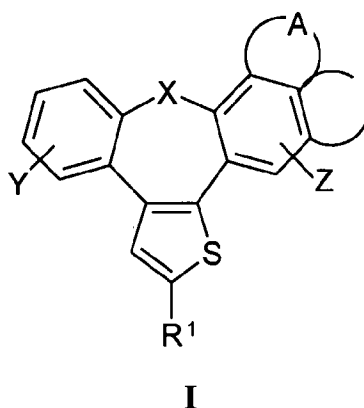
cases, gold salts, D-penicillamine or methotrexate are administered. Said drugs act symptomatically, but they do not stop the pathological process. Novel approaches in the therapy of rheumatoid arthritis are based upon drugs such as tenidap, leflunomide, cyclosporin, FK-506 and upon biomolecules neutralizing the TNF- α action. At present there are commercially available etanercept (Enbrel, Immunex/Wyeth), a fusion protein of the soluble TNF- α receptor, and infliximab (Remicade, Centocor), a chimeric monoclonal human and mouse antibody. Besides in RA therapy, etanercept and infliximab are also registered for the therapy of Crohn's disease (*Exp. Opin. Invest. Drugs*, **2000**, 9:103).

In RA therapy, besides inhibition of TNF- α secretion, also the inhibition of IL-1 secretion is very important since IL-1 is an important cytokin in cell regulation and immunoregulation as well as in pathophysiological conditions such as inflammation (Dinarello CA et al., *Rev. Infect. Disease*, **1984**, 6:51). Well-known biological activities of IL-1 are: activation of T-cells, induction of elevated temperature, stimulation of secretion of prostaglandine or collagenase, chemotaxia of neutrophils and reduction of iron level in plasma (Dinarello CA, *J. Clinical Immunology*, **1985**, 5:287). Two receptors to which IL-1 may bind are well-known: IL-1RI and IL-1RII. Whereas IL-1RI transfers a signal intracellularly, IL-1RII is situated on the cell surface and does not transfer a signal inside the cell. Since IL-1RII binds IL-1 as well as IL-1RI, it may act as a negative regulator of IL-1 action. Besides this mechanism of signal transfer regulation, another natural antagonist of IL-1 receptor (IL-1ra) is present in cells. This protein binds to IL-1RI but does not transfer any signal. However, its potency in stopping the signal transfer is not high and its concentration has to be 500 times higher than that of IL-1 in order to achieve a break in the signal transfer. Recombinant human IL-1ra (Amgen) was clinically tested (Bresnihan B et al., *Arthrit. Rheum.*, **1996**, 39:73) and the obtained results indicated an improvement of the clinical picture in 472 RA patients over an placebo. These results indicate the importance of the inhibition of IL-1 action in treating diseases such as RA where IL-1 production is disturbed. Since there exists a synergistic action of TNF- α and IL-1,

benzonaphthoazulenes may be used in treating conditions and diseases related to an enhanced secretion of TNF- α and IL-1.

Inventive Solution

The present invention relates to benzonaphthoazulenes of the formula I

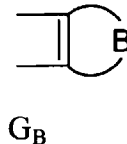
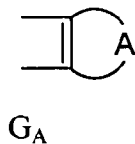


wherein

X may be CH₂ or a hetero atom such as O, S, S(=O), S(=O)₂, or NR^a, wherein R^a is hydrogen or a protecting group;

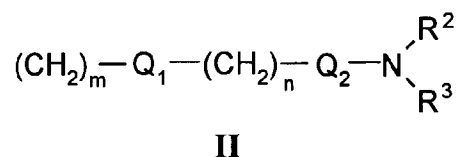
Y and Z independently from each other denote one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom, and may be halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, trifluoromethyl, halo-C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, amino, amino-C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkylamino, N-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, N,N-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl, carboxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro;

G_A or G_B:



independently from each other denote one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom, and may be halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, trifluoromethyl, halo-C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, amino, amino-C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkylamino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl, carboxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl, nitro;

R¹ may be halogen, an optionally substituted C₁-C₇ alkyl or C₂-C₇ alkenyl, C₂-C₇ alkynyl, an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl and a heterocycle, hydroxy, hydroxy-C₂-C₇ alkenyl, hydroxy-C₂-C₇ alkynyl, C₁-C₇ alkoxy, thiol, thio-C₂-C₇ alkenyl, thio-C₂-C₇ alkynyl, C₁-C₇ alkylthio, amino-C₁-C₇ alkyl, amino-C₂-C₇ alkenyl, amino-C₂-C₇ alkynyl, amino-C₁-C₇ alkoxy, C₁-C₇ alkanoyl, aroyl, oxo-C₁-C₇ alkyl, C₁-C₇ alkanoyloxy, carboxy, an optionally substituted C₁-C₇ alkyloxycarbonyl or aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C₁-C₇-alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₇-alkyl)carbamoyl, cyano-C₁-C₇ alkyl, sulfonyl, C₁-C₇ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₇ alkylsulfinyl, nitro, or a substituent of the formula II



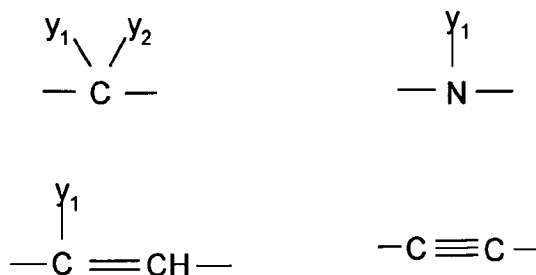
wherein

R² and R³ simultaneously or independently from each other may be hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, aryl or together with N have the meaning of an optionally substituted heterocycle or heteroaryl;

n represents an integer from 0 to 3;

m represents an integer from 1 to 3;

Q₁ and Q₂ represent, independently from each other, oxygen, sulfur or groups:



wherein the substituents

y_1 and y_2 independently from each other may be hydrogen, halogen, an optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 alkyl or aryl, hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkanoyl, thiol, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio, sulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulfinyl, nitro or together form carbonyl or imino group;

as well as to pharmacologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

The term "halo", "hal" or "halogen" relates to a halogen atom which may be fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

The term "alkyl" relates to alkyl groups with the meaning of alkanes wherefrom radicals are derived, which radicals may be straight, branched or cyclic or a combination of straight and cyclic ones and branched and cyclic ones. The preferred straight or branched alkyls are e.g. methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, *sec*-butyl and *tert*-butyl. The preferred cyclic alkyls are e.g. cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

The term "haloalkyl" relates to alkyl groups which must be substituted with at least one halogen atom. The most frequent haloalkyls are e.g. chloromethyl, dichloromethyl, trifluoromethyl or 1,2-dichloropropyl.

The term "alkenyl" relates to alkenyl groups having the meaning of hydrocarbon radicals, which may be straight, branched or cyclic or are a combination of straight and cyclic ones or branched and cyclic ones, but having at least one carbon-carbon

double bond. The most frequent alkenyls are ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl or cyclohexenyl.

The term "alkinyl" relates to alkinyl groups having the meaning of hydrocarbon radicals, which are straight or branched and contain at least one and at most two carbon-carbon triple bonds. The most frequent alkinyls are e.g. ethinyl, propinyl or butinyl.

The term "alkoxy" relates to straight or branched chains of alkoxy group. Examples of such groups are methoxy, propoxy, prop-2-oxy, butoxy, but-2-oxy or methylprop-2-oxy.

The term "aryl" relates to groups having the meaning of an aromatic ring, e.g. phenyl, as well as to fused aromatic rings. Aryl contains one ring with at least 6 carbon atoms or two rings with totally 10 carbon atoms and with alternating double (resonant) bonds between carbon atoms. The most frequently used aryls are e.g. phenyl or naphthyl. In general, aryl groups may be linked to the rest of the molecule by any available carbon atom via a direct bond or via a C₁-C₄ alkylene group such as methylene or ethylene.

The term "heteroaryl" relates to groups having the meaning of aromatic and partially aromatic groups of a monocyclic or bicyclic ring with 4 to 12 carbon atoms, at least one of them being a hetero atom such as O, S or N, and the available nitrogen atom or carbon atom is the binding site of the group to the rest of the molecule either via a direct bond or via a C₁-C₄ alkylene group defined earlier. Examples of this type are thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyridinyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, tetrazolyl, pirimidinyl, pyrazinyl, quinolinyl or triazinyl.

The term "heterocycle" relates to five-member or six-member, fully saturated or partly unsaturated heterocyclic groups containing at least one hetero atom such as O, S or N,

and the available nitrogen atom or carbon atom is the binding site of the group to the rest of the molecule either via a direct bond or via a C₁-C₄ alkylene group defined earlier. The most frequent examples are morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pirazinyl or imidazolyl.

The term "alkanoyl" group relates to straight chains of acyl group such as formyl, acetyl or propanoyl.

The term "aroyl" group relates to aromatic acyl groups such as benzoyl.

The term "optionally substituted alkyl" relates to alkyl groups which may be optionally additionally substituted with one, two, three or more substituents. Such substituents may be halogen atom (preferably fluorine or chlorine), hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy (preferably methoxy or ethoxy), thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio (preferably methylthio or ethylthio), amino, *N*-(C₁-C₄) alkylamino (preferably *N*-methylamino or *N*-ethylamino), *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-amino (preferably dimethylamino or diethylamino), sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl (preferably methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl (preferably methylsulfinyl).

The term "optionally substituted alkenyl" relates to alkenyl groups optionally additionally substituted with one, two or three halogen atoms. Such substituents may be e.g. 2-chloroethenyl, 1,2-dichloroethenyl or 2-bromo-propene-1-yl.

The term "optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycle" relates to aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclic groups which may be optionally additionally substituted with one or two substituents. The substituents may be halogen (preferably chlorine or fluorine), C₁-C₄ alkyl (preferably methyl, ethyl or isopropyl), cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy (preferably methoxy or ethoxy), thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio (preferably methylthio or ethylthio), amino, *N*-(C₁-C₄) alkylamino (preferably *N*-methylamino or *N*-ethylamino), *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-amino (preferably *N,N*-dimethylamino or *N,N*-

diethylamino), sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl (preferably methylsulfonyl or ethylsulfonyl), sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl (preferably methylsulfinyl).

When X has the meaning of NR^a and R^a has the meaning of a protecting group, then R^a relates to groups such as alkyl (preferably methyl or ethyl), alkanoyl (preferably acetyl), alkoxycarbonyl (preferably methoxycarbonyl or *tert*-butoxycarbonyl), arylmethoxycarbonyl (preferably benzyloxycarbonyl), aroyl (preferably benzoyl), arylalkyl (preferably benzyl), alkylsilyl (preferably trimethylsilyl) or alkylsilylalkoxyalkyl (preferably trimethylsilylethoxymethyl).

When R² and R³ together with N have the meaning of heteroaryl or heterocycle, this means that such heteroaryls or heterocycles have at least one carbon atom replaced by a nitrogen atom through which the groups are linked to the rest of the molecule. Examples of such groups are morpholine-4-yl, piperidine-1-yl, pyrrolidine-1-yl, imidazole-1-yl or piperazine-1-yl.

The term "pharmaceutically suitable salts" relates to salts of the compounds of the formula I and include e.g. salts with C₁-C₄ alkylhalides (preferably methyl bromide, methyl chloride) (quaternary ammonium salts), with inorganic acids (hydrochloric, hydrobromic, phosphoric, metaphosphoric, nitric or sulfuric acids) or with organic acids (tartaric, acetic, citric, maleic, lactic, fumaric, benzoic, succinic, methane sulfonic or *p*-toluene sulfonic acids).

Some compounds of the formula I may form salts with organic or inorganic acids or bases and these are also included in the present invention.

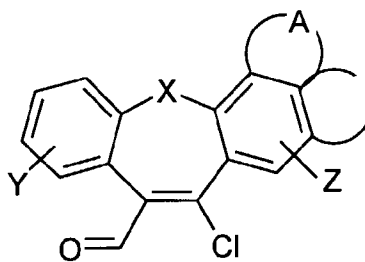
Solvates (most frequently hydrates) which may form compounds of the formula I or salts thereof are also an object of the present invention.

Depending upon the nature of particular substituents, the compounds of the formula I may have geometric isomers and one or more chiral centres so that there can exist enantiomers or diastereoisomers. The present invention also relates to such isomers and mixtures thereof, including racemates.

The present invention also relates to all possible tautomeric forms of particular compounds of the formula I.

A further object of the present invention relates to the preparation of compounds of the formula I according to processes comprising

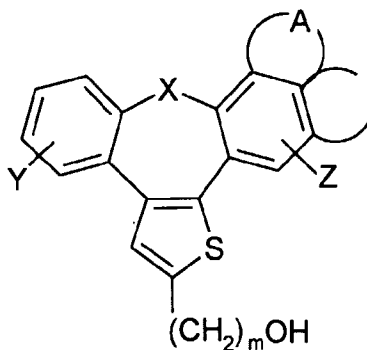
- a) for compounds of the formula I, wherein R^1 is alkyloxycarbonyl,
a cyclisation of the compound of the formula III



III

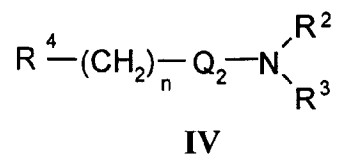
with esters of mercaptoacetic acid;

- b) for compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has the meaning of -O-,
a reaction of alcohols of the formula V



V

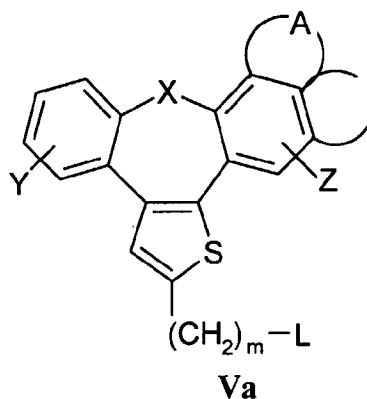
with compounds of the formula IV



wherein R^4 has a meaning of a leaving group;

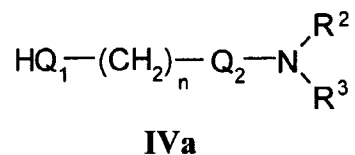
c) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has a meaning of -O-, -NH-, -S- or -C≡C-,

a reaction of the compounds of the formula Va



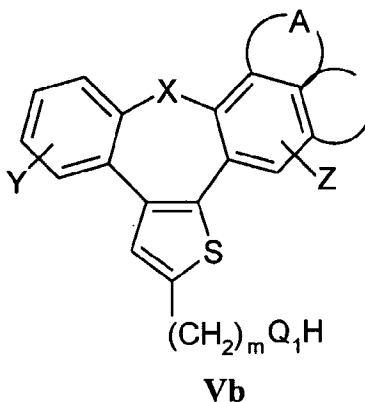
wherein L has a meaning of a leaving group,

with compounds of the formula IVa



d) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has a meaning of a hetero atom -O-, -NH- or -S-,

a reaction of the compounds of the formula Vb



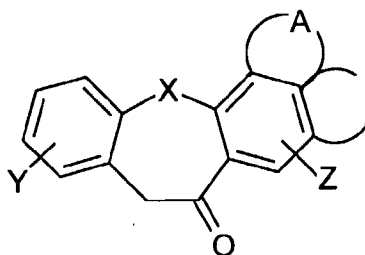
with the compounds of the formula IV, wherein R^4 has a meaning of a leaving group;

e) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has a meaning of $-C=C-$,
 a reaction of the compounds of the formula Vb, wherein Q_1 has a meaning of carbonyl, with phosphorous ylides.

Preparation methods:

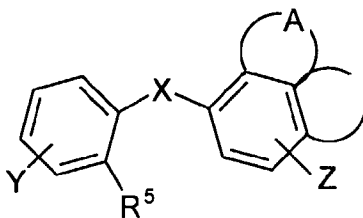
a) Cyclization of the compounds of the formula III with ethyl mercaptoacetate is carried out by methods disclosed for the preparation of analogous compounds. The reaction is carried out in the presence of organic bases (preferably pyridine) at the boiling point during 1 to 5 hours. The obtained tetracyclic products may be isolated by column chromatography or by recrystallization from an appropriate solvent.

The starting substances for the preparation of the compounds of the formula III, ketones of the formula VI,



VI

are already known or are prepared by methods disclosed for the preparation of analogous compounds. Thus e.g. the compounds of the formula VI may be obtained starting from compounds of the formula VIII



VIII

wherein R^5 has a meaning of a CO_2H group, in such a way that by suitable chemical transformations there is obtained a compound of the formula VIII wherein R^5 has the meaning of CH_2CO_2H . By the action of polyphosphoric acid, cyclization and formation of a ketone of the formula VI occur. A similar reaction sequence has been disclosed earlier in Protiva M et al. (CS 163583, *Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun.*, **1975**, 40:1960-1965 and *Collect. Czech. Chem. Commun.*, **1974**, 39:3147-3152). Alternatively, the compound of the formula VIII, wherein R^5 has the meaning of CH_2CO_2H , may be prepared by reacting the compound of the formula VIII, wherein R^5 is $COCH_3$, with sulfur and morpholine and by hydrolyzing thioamide thus obtained (Ueda I et al., *Chem. Pharm. Bull.*, **1975**, 23:2223-2231). By the action of Vilsmeier-Haack reagent upon the corresponding ketones of the formula VI, compounds of the formula III (Tsuji K et al., *Chem. Pharm. Bull.*, **1998**, 46:279-286) are prepared.

b) Compounds of the formula I according to the present process may be prepared by reaction of alcohols of the formula V and compounds of the formula IV, wherein R^4 has the meaning of a leaving group, which may be a halogen atom (most frequently bromine, iodine or chlorine) or sulfonyloxy group (most frequently

trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy or p-toluenesulfonyloxy). The reaction of condensation may be carried out according to methods disclosed for the preparation of analogous compounds (Menozzi G et al., *J. Heterocyclic Chem.*, **1997**, 34:963-968 or WO 01/87890). The reaction is carried out at a temperature from 20°C to 100°C during 1 to 24 hours in a two-phase system (preferably with 50% NaOH/toluene) in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst (preferably benzyl triethyl ammonium chloride, benzyl triethyl ammonium bromide, cetyl trimethyl bromide). After treating the reaction mixture, the products formed are isolated by recrystallization or chromatography on a silica gel column.

The starting substances, alcohols of the formula V, may be prepared from the compounds of the formula I, wherein R¹ has the meaning of a suitable functional group. Thus e.g. alcohols of the formula V may be obtained by the reduction of alkyloxycarbonyl group (e.g. ethyloxycarbonyl) by using metal hydrides such as lithium aluminum hydride or sodium borohydride. Further, alcohols of the formula V may be prepared by hydrolysis of the corresponding esters in an alkaline or acidic medium.

The starting compounds of the formula IV are already known or are prepared according to methods disclosed for the preparation of analogous compounds.

c) Compounds of the formula I according to the present process may be prepared by reacting compounds of the formula Va, wherein L has the meaning of a leaving group defined earlier for R⁴, and compounds of the formula IVa, wherein Q₁ has the meaning of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur or -C≡C-. The most suitable condensation reactions are reactions of nucleophilic substitution on a saturated carbon atom as disclosed in the literature.

The starting compounds of the formula Va (most frequently halides) may be obtained by halogenation (e.g. bromination or chlorination) of alcohols of the formula V with

the usual halogenating agents (e.g. hydrobromic acid, PBr_3 , SOCl_2 or PCl_5) by processes as disclosed in the literature. The obtained compounds may be isolated or may be used without isolation as suitable intermediates for the preparation of the compounds of the formula I.

The starting compounds of the formula IVa are already known or are prepared according to methods disclosed for the preparation of analogous compounds.

d) The compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has a meaning of $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$ or $-\text{S}-$, may be prepared by condensation of the compounds of the formula Vb and of compounds of the formula IV, wherein R^4 has the meaning of a leaving group defined earlier. The reaction may be carried out at reaction conditions disclosed in method b) or by reactions of nucleophilic substitution disclosed in the literature. The starting alcohols, amines and thiols may be obtained by a reaction of water, ammonia or hydrogen sulfide with compounds Va according to processes disclosed in the literature.

e) The alcohols of the structure V may be oxidized to corresponding compounds of the formula Vb, wherein Q_1 has the meaning of carbonyl and which may further, by reaction with corresponding ylide reagents, result in a prolongation of the chain and in the formation of an alkenyl substituent with carbonyl or ester groups as disclosed in HR patent application No. 20000310.

Besides the reactions mentioned above, the compounds of the formula I may be prepared by transforming other compounds of the formula I and it is to be understood that the present invention also comprises such compounds and processes. A special example of a change of a functional group is the reaction of the aldehyde group with chosen phosphorous ylides resulting in a prolongation of the chain and the formation of an alkenyl substituent with carbonyl or ester groups as disclosed in HR patent application No. 20000310. These reactions are carried out in solvents such as

benzene, toluene or hexane at elevated temperature (most frequently at boiling temperature).

By reacting the compounds of the formula Va with 1-alkyne in an alkaline medium (such as sodium amide in ammonia) the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 is $-C\equiv C-$, are obtained. The reaction conditions of this process are disclosed in the literature. At similar reaction conditions (nucleophilic substitution) various ether, thioether or amine derivatives may be prepared.

The formylation of the compounds of the formula I by processes such as e.g. Vilsmeier acylation or reaction of *n*-BuLi and *N,N*-dimethylformamide is a further general example of a transformation. The reaction conditions of these processes are well-known in the literature.

By hydrolysis of the compounds of the formula I having nitrile, amide or ester groups, there may be prepared compounds with a carboxyl group, which are suitable intermediates for the preparation of other compounds with novel functional groups such as e.g. esters, amides, halides, anhydrides, alcohols or amines.

Oxidation or reduction reactions are a further possibility of the change of substituents in the compounds of the formula I. Most frequently used oxidation agents are peroxides (hydrogen peroxide, *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid or benzoyl peroxide) or permanganate, chromate or perchlorate ions. Thus e.g. by the oxidation of an alcohol group by pyridinyl dichromate or pyridinyl chlorochromate, an aldehyde group is formed, which group may be converted to a carboxyl group by further oxidation. By oxidation of the compounds of the formula I, wherein R^1 has the meaning of alkyl, with lead tetraacetate in acetic acid or with *N*-bromosuccinimide using a catalytic amount of benzoyl peroxide, a corresponding carbonyl derivative is obtained.

By a selective oxidation of alkylthio group, alkylsulfinyl or alkylsulfonyl groups may be prepared.

By the reduction of the compounds with a nitro group, the preparation of amino compounds is made possible. The reaction is carried out under usual conditions of catalytic hydrogenation or electrochemically. By catalytic hydrogenation using palladium on carbon, alkenyl substituents may be converted to alkyl ones or nitrile group can be converted to aminoalkyl.

Various substituents of the aromatic structure in the compounds of the formula I may be introduced by standard substitution reactions or by usual changes of individual functional groups. Examples of such reactions are aromatic substitutions, alkylations, halogenation, hydroxylation as well as oxidation or reduction of substituents. Reagents and reaction conditions are known from the literature. Thus e.g. by aromatic substitution a nitro group is introduced in the presence of concentrated nitric acid and sulfuric acid. By using acyl halides or alkyl halides, the introduction of an acyl group or an alkyl group is made possible. The reaction is carried out in the presence of Lewis acids such as aluminum- or iron-trichloride in conditions of Friedel-Crafts reaction. By the reduction of the nitro group, an amino group is obtained, which is by the reaction of diazotizing converted to a suitable starting group, which may be replaced with one of the following groups: H, CN, OH, Hal.

In order to prevent undesired interaction in chemical reactions, it is often necessary to protect certain groups such as e.g. hydroxy, amino, thio or carboxy. For this purpose a great number of protecting groups may be used (Green TW, Wuts PGH, Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, John Wiley and Sons, 1999) and the choice, use and elimination thereof are conventional methods in chemical synthesis.

A convenient protection for amino or alkylamino groups are groups such as e.g. alkanoyl (acetyl), alkoxycarbonyl (methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or *tert*-

butoxycarbonyl); arylmethoxycarbonyl (benzyloxycarbonyl), aroyl (benzoyl) or alkylsilyl (trimethylsilyl or trimethylsilylethoxymethyl) groups. The conditions of removing a protecting group depend upon the choice and the characteristics of this group. Thus e.g. acyl groups such as alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl or aroyl may be eliminated by hydrolysis in the presence of a base (sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide), *tert*-butoxycarbonyl or alkylsilyl (trimethylsilyl) may be eliminated by treatment with a suitable acid (hydrochloric, sulfuric, phosphoric or trifluoroacetic acid), whereas arylmethoxycarbonyl group (benzyloxycarbonyl) may be eliminated by hydrogenation using a catalyst such as palladium on carbon.

Salts of the compounds of the formula I may be prepared by generally known processes such as e.g. by reacting the compounds of the formula I with a corresponding base or acid in an appropriate solvent or solvent mixture e.g. ethers (diethylether) or alcohols (ethanol, propanol or isopropanol).

Another object of the present invention concerns the use of the present compounds in the therapy of inflammatory diseases and conditions, especially all diseases and conditions induced by excessive TNF- α and IL-1 secretion.

Inhibitors of production of cytokins or inflammation mediators, which are the object of the present invention, or pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof may be used in production of drugs for the treatment and prophylaxis of any pathological condition or disease induced by excessive unregulated production of cytokins or inflammation mediators, which drugs should contain an effective dose of said inhibitors.

The present invention specifically relates to an effective dose of TNF- α inhibitor, which may be determined by usual methods.

Further, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation containing an effective non-toxic dosis of the present compounds as well as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or solvents.

The preparation of pharmaceutical formulations may include blending, granulating, tableting and dissolving ingredients. Chemical carriers may be solid or liquid. Solid carriers may be lactose, sucrose, talcum, gelatine, agar, pectin, magnesium stearate, fatty acids etc. Liquid carriers may be syrups, oils such as olive oil, sunflower oil or soya bean oil, water etc. Similarly, the carrier may also contain a component for a sustained release of the active component such as e.g. glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate. Various forms of pharmaceutical formulations may be used. Thus, if a solid carrier is used, these forms may be tablets, hard gelatine capsules, powder or granules, which may be administered in capsules per os. The amount of the solid carrier may vary, but it is mainly from 25 mg to 1 g. If a liquid carrier is used, the formulation would be in the form of a syrup, emulsion, soft gelatine capsules, sterile injectable liquids such as ampoules or non-aqueous liquid suspensions.

Compounds according to the present invention may be applied per os, parenterally, locally, intranasally, intrarectally and intravaginally. The parenteral route herein means intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous applications. Appropriate formulations of the present compounds may be used in the prophylaxis as well as in the treatment of various diseases and pathological inflammatory conditions induced by an excessive unregulated production of cytokins or inflammation mediators, primarily TNF- α . They comprise rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis and other arthritic pathological conditions and diseases, eczemas, psoriasis and other inflammatory skin conditions such as burns induced by UV radiation (sun rays and similar UV sources), inflammatory eye diseases, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and asthma.

The inhibitory action of the present compounds upon TNF- α and IL-1 secretion was determined by the following *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments:

Determination of TNF- α and IL-1 secretion in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells *in vitro*

Human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were prepared from heparinized whole blood after separating PBMC on Ficoll-PaqueTMPlus (Amersham-Pharmacia). To determine the TNF- α level, $3.5\text{--}5 \times 10^4$ cells were cultivated in a total volume of 200 μl for 18 to 24 hours on microtitre plates with a flat bottom (96 wells, Falcon) in RPMI 1640 medium, into which there were added 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum, Biowhittaker) previously inactivated at 54°C/30 min, 100 units/ml of penicillin, 100 mg/ml of streptomycin and 20 mM HEPES (GIBCO). The cells were incubated at 37°C in an atmosphere with 5% CO₂ and 90% humidity. In a negative control the cells were cultivated only in the medium (NC), whereas in a positive control TNF- α secretion was triggered by adding 1 ng/ml of lipopolysaccharides (LPS, *E. coli* serotype 0111:B4, SIGMA) (PC). The effect of the tested substances upon TNF- α secretion was investigated after adding them into cultures of cells stimulated by LPS (TS). The TNF- α level in the cell supernatant was determined by ELISA procedure according to the suggestions of the producer (R&D Systems). The test sensitivity was <3pg/ml TNF- α . The IL-1 level was determined in an assay under the same conditions and with the same number of cells and the same concentration of the stimulus by ELISA procedure (R&D Systems). The percentage of inhibition of TNF- α or IL-1 production was calculated by the equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = [1 - (\text{TS-NC})/(\text{PC-NC})] * 100.$$

The IC-50 value was defined as the substance concentration, at which 50% of TNF- α production were inhibited.

Compounds showing IC-50 with 20 μ M or lower concentrations are active.

Determination of TNF- α and IL-1 secretion in mouse peritoneal macrophages *in vitro*

In order to obtain peritoneal macrophages, Balb/C mouse strain males, age 8 to 12 weeks, were injected i.p. with 300 μ g of zymosan (SIGMA) dissolved in a phosphate buffer (PBS) in a total volume of 0.1 ml/mouse. After 24 hours the mice were euthanized according to the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act. The peritoneal cavity was washed with a sterile physiological solution (5 ml). The obtained peritoneal macrophages were washed twice with a sterile physiological solution and, after the last centrifugation (350 g/10 min), resuspended in RPMI 1640, into which 10% of FBS portion were added. In order to determine TNF- α secretion, 5×10^4 cells/well were cultivated in a total volume of 200 μ l for 18 to 24 hours on microtitre plates with a flat bottom (96 wells, Falcon) in RPMI 1640 medium, into which 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum, Biowhittaker) inactivated by heat, 100 units/ml of penicillin, 100 mg/ml of streptomycin, 20 mM HEPES and 50 μ M 2-mercaptoethanol (all of GIBCO) were added. The cells were incubated at 37°C in an atmosphere with 5% CO₂ and 90% humidity. In a negative control the cells were cultivated only in a medium (NC), whereas in a positive control the TNF- α secretion was triggered by adding 10 ng/ml of lipopolysaccharides (LPS, *E. coli* serotype 0111:B4, SIGMA) (PC). The effect of the substances upon the TNF- α secretion was investigated after adding them into cultures of cells stimulated with LPS (TS). The TNF- α level in the cell supernatant was determined by ELISA procedure (R&D Systems, Biosource). The IL-1 level was determined in an assay identical to the assay for TNF- α by ELISA procedure (R&D Systems). The percentage of inhibition of TNF- α or IL-1 production was calculated by the equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = [1 - (\text{TS} - \text{NC}) / (\text{PC} - \text{NC})] * 100.$$

The IC-50 value was defined as the substance concentration, at which 50% of TNF- α production were inhibited.

Compounds showing IC-50 with 10 μ M or lower concentrations are active.

***In vivo* model of LPS-induced excessive TNF- α or IL-1 secretion in mice**

TNF- α or IL-1 secretion in mice was induced according to the already disclosed method (Badger AM et al., *J. Pharmac. Env. Therap.*, **1996**, 279:1453-1461). Balb/C males, age 8 to 12 weeks, in groups of 6 to 10 animals were used. The animals were treated p.o. either with a solvent only (in negative and in positive controls) or with solutions of substances 30 minutes prior to i.p. treatment with LPS (*E. coli* serotype 0111:B4, Sigma) in a dosis of 25 μ g/animal. Two hours later the animals were euthanized by means of i.p. Roumpun (Bayer) and Ketanest (Parke-Davis) injection. A blood sample of each animal was taken into a Vacutainer tube (Becton Dickinson) and the plasma was separated according to the producer's instructions. The TNF- α level in the plasma was determined by ELISA procedure (Biosource, R&D Systems) according to the producer's instructions. The test sensitivity was <3pg/ml TNF- α . The IL-1 level was determined by ELISA procedure (R&D Systems). The percentage of inhibition of TNF- α or IL-1 production was calculated by the equation:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = [1 - (\text{TS-NC})/(\text{PC-NC})] * 100.$$

Active are the compounds showing 30% or more inhibition of TNF- α production at a dosis of 10 mg/kg.

Writhing assay for analgetic activity

In this assay pain is induced by the injection of an irritant, most frequently acetic acid, into the peritoneal cavity of mice. Animals react with characteristic writhings, which has given the name of the assay (Collier HOJ et al., *Pharmac. Chemother.*, **1968**,

32:295-310; Fukawa K et al., *J. Pharmacol. Meth.*, **1980**, 4:251-259; Schweizer A et al., *Agents Actions*, **1988**, 23:29-31). The assay is convenient for the determination of analgetic activity of compounds. Procedure: male Balb/C mice (Charles River, Italy), age 8 to 12 weeks, were used. A control group received methyl cellulose p.o. 30 minutes prior to i.p. application of acetic acid in a concentration of 0.6%, whereas test groups received standard (acetylsalicylic acid) or test substances in methyl cellulose p.o. 30 minutes prior to i.p. application of 0.6% acetic acid (volume 0.1 ml/10 g). The mice were placed individually under glass funnels and the number of writhings was registered for 20 minutes for each animal. The percentage of writhing inhibition was calculated according to the equation:

% inhibition = (mean value of number of writhings in the control group – number of writhings in the test group)/number of writhings in the control group * 100.

Active are the compounds showing such analgetic activity as acetylsalicylic acid or better.

***In vivo* model of LPS-induced shock in mice**

Male Balb/C mice (Charles River, Italy), age 8 to 12 weeks, were used. LPS isolated from *Serratia marcescens* (Sigma, L-6136) was diluted in sterile physiological solution. The first LPS injection was administered intradermally in a dosis of 4 µg/mouse. 18 to 24 hours later, LPS was administered i.v. in a dosis of 200 µg/mouse. A control group received two LPS injections as disclosed above. The test groups received substances p.o. half an hour prior to each LPS application. Survival after 24 hours was observed.

Active are the substances at which the survival at a dosis of 30 mg/kg was 40% or more.

Compounds from Examples 6 and 7 show activity in at least two investigated assays though these results only represent an illustration of biological activity of compounds and should not limit the invention in any way.

PREPARATION PROCESSES WITH EXAMPLES

The present invention is illustrated by the following Examples which are in no way a limitation thereof.

Example 1

8-Oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (48; Table 1)

Ethyl-2-mercaptoacetate (0.005 mole) and triethyl amine (1.0 ml) were added to a pyridine solution of the compound **41** (0.005 mole in 10 ml) and the mixture was refluxed under stirring for 3 hours. Then pyridine was removed under reduced pressure. Water and ethyl acetate were added to the residue, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was twice more extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried on sodium sulfate and evaporated. There remained a crude product, which was purified by recrystallization or column chromatography to give a pure product in the form of a white solid.

According to the above process, starting from compounds **42-47** there were prepared and isolated:

1,8-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-methoxy-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (Table 1, compounds **49-54**)

Example 2

(8-Oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol (**55**; Table 1)

An ether solution of ester **48** (1.5 mmole in 20 ml) was added dropwise to a suspension of LiAlH₄ in ether (5.0 mmole in 10 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After the completion of reaction the excess of LiAlH₄ was decomposed by addition of ether and water. The obtained precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure. A crude product was purified by recrystallization to obtain a pure product in the form of white crystals.

According to the above process, starting from compounds **49-54** there were prepared and isolated:

(1,8-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;

(3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;

(10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;

(11-methoxy-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;

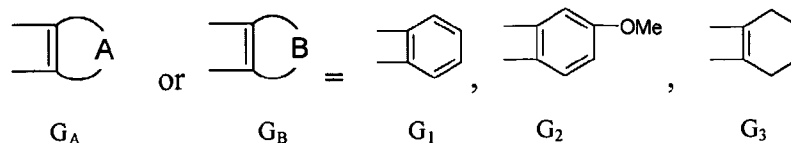
(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;

(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;

(Table 1; compounds **56-61**).

Table 1

Compounds of the structure I wherein Y = Z = H



| comp. | X | G _A | G _B | R ¹ | MS (m/z) | ¹ H NMR (ppm) |
|-------|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 48 | O | | G ₁ | CO ₂ Et | - | 1.36 (t, 3H); 4.38 (q, 2H); 7.32 (m, 1H); 7.45-7.60 (m, 4H); 7.77 (d, 1H); 7.95 (d, 1H); 7.99 (s, 1H); 8.04 (d, 1H); 8.22 (s, 1H); 8.27 (s, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 49 | S | | G ₁ | CO ₂ Et | - | 1.43 (t, 3H); 4.42 (q, 2H); 7.30-7.56 (m, 5H); 7.70 (d, 1H); 7.82 (m, 2H); 8.01 (s, 1H); 8.04 (s, 1H); 8.17 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 50 | S | G ₁ | | CO ₂ Et | - | 1.34 (t, 3H); 4.20 (q, 2H); 7.10-8.10 (m, 10H); 9.20 (d, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 51 | O | G ₁ | | CO ₂ Et | - | 1.43 (t, 3H); 4.42 (q, 2H); 7.21-7.73 (m, 8 H); 7.85 (d, 1H); 8.09 (s, 1H); 8.67 (d, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 52 | O | | G ₂ | CO ₂ Et | 403 (MH ⁺) | 1.36 (t, 3H); 3.90 (s, 3H); 4.37 (q, 2H); 7.18 (dd, 1H); 7.29-7.36 (m, 2H); 7.46-7.50 (m, 2H); 7.76 (d, 1H); 7.86 (s, 1H); 7.95 (d, 1H); 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 53 | O | G ₃ | | CO ₂ Et | 377 (MH ⁺) | 1.34 (t, 3H); 1.74 (m, 2H); 1.80 (m, 2H); 2.74 (m, 2H); 3.06 (m, 2H); 4.35 (q, 2H); 7.02 (d, 1H); 7.28-7.44 (m, 4H); 7.72 (d, 1H); 8.14 (s, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 54 | O | | G ₃ | CO ₂ Et | 377 (MH ⁺) | 1.34 (t, 3H); 1.71 (bs, 4H); 2.73 (m, 4H); 4.35 (q, 2H); 7.16 (s, 1H); 7.27-7.31 (m, 2H); 7.37-7.46 (m, 2H); 7.70 (d, 1H); 8.15 (s, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 55 | O | | G ₁ | CH ₂ OH | - | 4.76 (d, 2H); 5.74 (t, 1H); 7.27-7.62 (m, 7H); 7.92 (m, 1H); 7.93 (s, 1H); 8.00 (m, 1H); 8.05 (s, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 56 | S | | G ₁ | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.70 (bs, 1H); 4.95 (s, 2H); 7.25-7.51 (m, 6H); 7.70 (d, 1H); 7.81 (m, 2H); 7.98 (s, 1H); 8.16 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 57 | S | G ₁ | | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.58 (bs, 1H); 5.00 (s, 2H); 7.20-7.90 (m, 10H); 9.09 (d, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 58 | O | G ₁ | | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.69 (bs, 1H); 4.94 (s, 2H); 7.18-7.67 (m, 9H); 7.83 (d, 1H); 8.66 (d, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 59 | O | | G ₂ | CH ₂ OH | 361 (MH ⁺) | - |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 60 | O | G ₃ | | CH ₂ OH | 334 (M ⁺) | 1.72 (m, 2H); 1.81 (m, 2H); 2.73 (t, 2H); 3.05 (t, 2H); 4.71 (d, 2H); 5.64 (t, 1H); 6.96 (d, 1H); 7.16 (d, 1H); 7.26 (m, 1H); 7.32 (s, 1H); 7.36-7.40 (m, 2H); 7.56 (d, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 61 | O | | G ₃ | CH ₂ OH | 334 (M ⁺) | 1.71 (bs, 4H); 2.71 (m, 4H); 4.71 (d, 2H); 5.65 (t, 1H); 7.09 (s, 1H); 7.11 (s, 1H); 7.22-7.41 (m, 4H); 7.54 (d, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |

Example 3

a) *Dimethyl-[2-(8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[3,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine*

To a solution of 2-dimethylaminoethyl chloride hydrochloride (3.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (5 ml), a catalytic amount of benzyltriethylammonium chloride and a solution of alcohol **55** (0.3 mmole) in toluene (5 ml) were added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 4 hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow oily product was isolated.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 2.31 (s, 6H); 2.60 (t, 2H); 3.68 (t, 2H); 4.78 (s, 2H); 7.18-7.50 (m, 7H); 7.73 (s, 1H); 7.80 (m, 2H); 7.90 (s, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 402 (MH⁺).

b) *Dimethyl-[3-(8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[3,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine*

By the reaction of alcohol **55** (0.2 mmole) and 3-dimethylaminopropyl chloride hydrochloride (2.0 mmole), a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 2.01 (m, 2H); 2.50 (s, 6H); 2.75 (t, 2H); 3.68 (t, 2H); 4.75 (s, 2H); 7.18-7.73 (m, 7H); 7.73 (s, 1H); 7.80 (m, 2H); 7.90 (s, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 416 (MH⁺).

c) *3-(8-Oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propylamine*

By the reaction of alcohol **55** (0.3 mmole) and 3-aminopropyl chloride hydrochloride (3.0 mmole), a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CD₃COCD₃): 1.90 (m, 2H); 2.86 (b, 2H); 3.30 (t, 2H); 3.68 (t, 2H); 4.78 (s, 2H); 7.25-7.65 (m, 7H); 7.89 (s, 1H); 7.90-8.00 (m, 2H); 8.04 (s, 1H); MS (*m/z*): 388 (MH⁺).

Example 4

Dimethyl-[3-(1,8-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine

To a solution of 2-dimethylaminopropyl chloride hydrochloride (8.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (10 ml), a catalytic amount of benzyltriethylammonium chloride and a solution of alcohol **56** (0.6 mmole) in toluene (10 ml) were added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 4 hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow oily product was isolated.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.90 (m, 2H); 2.31 (s, 6H); 2.49 (t, 2H); 3.67 (t, 2H); 4.76 (s, 2H); 7.23 (s, 1H); 7.29-7.52 (m, 5H); 7.70 (d, 1H); 7.81 (m, 2H); 7.99 (s, 1H); 8.16 (s, 1H).

Example 5

a) *Dimethyl-[2-(3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine*

To a solution of 2-dimethylaminoethyl chloride hydrochloride (10.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (10 ml), a solution of alcohol **57** (0.7 mmole) in toluene (10 ml) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 4

hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow oily product was isolated.

^1H NMR (ppm, CDCl_3): 2.33 (s, 6H); 2.63 (t, 2H); 3.73 (t, 2H); 4.82 (s, 2H); 7.15-7.80 (m, 10H); 9.02 (d, 1H).

b) *Dimethyl-[3-(3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine*

By the reaction of alcohol **57** and 3-dimethylaminopropyl chloride, a yellow oily product was obtained; ^1H NMR (ppm, CDCl_3): 1.87 (m, 2H); 2.27 (s, 6H); 2.45 (t, 2H); 3.68 (t, 2H); 4.78 (s, 2H); 7.20-7.83 (m, 10H); 9.02 (d, 1H); MS (m/z): 432 (MH^+).

Example 6

a) *Dimethyl-[2-(10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine*

To a solution of 2-dimethylaminoethyl chloride hydrochloride (5.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (5 ml), a toluene solution of alcohol **58** (0.5 mmole) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 3 hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow oily product was isolated.

^1H NMR (ppm, CDCl_3): 2.36 (s, 6H); 2.65 (t, 2H); 3.72 (t, 2H); 4.79 (s, 2H); 7.18-7.67 (m, 9H); 7.83 (d, 1H); 8.66 (d, 1H); MS (m/z): 402 (MH^+).

b) *Dimethyl-[3-(10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine*

By the reaction of alcohol **58** and 3-dimethylaminopropyl chloride hydrochloride, a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.91 (m, 2H); 2.35 (s, 6H); 2.55 (t, 2H); 3.65 (t, 2H); 4.75 (s, 2H); 7.20-7.67 (m, 9H); 7.83 (d, 1H); 8.66 (d, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 416 (MH⁺).

Example 7

Dimethyl-[3-(11-methoxy-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine

To a solution of 3-dimethylaminopropyl chloride hydrochloride (3.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (5 ml), a catalytic amount of benzyltriethylammonium chloride and a solution of alcohol **59** (0.3 mmole) in toluene (5 ml) were added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 6 hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow product was isolated, which crystallized upon standing.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.86 (p, 2H); 2.25 (s, 6H); 2.41 (t, 2H); 3.64 (t, 2H); 3.92 (s, 3H); 4.74 (s, 2H); 7.07-7.49 (m, 7H); 7.63 (s, 1H); 7.71 (d, 1H); 7.83 (s, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 446 (MH⁺).

Example 8

a) *Dimethyl-[2-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine*

To a solution of 2-dimethylaminoethyl chloride hydrochloride (6.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (10 ml), a solution of alcohol **60** (0.6 mmole) in toluene (10 ml) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 3 hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow oily product was isolated.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.79 (m, 2H); 1.86 (m, 2H); 2.43 (s, 6H); 2.73 (m, 2H); 2.77 (t, 2H); 3.12 (t, 2H); 3.75 (t, 2H); 4.75 (s, 2H); 6.90 (d, 1H); 7.14-7.35 (m, 5H); 7.45 (d, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 406 (MH⁺).

b) *Dimethyl-[3-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[1,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine*

By the reaction of alcohol **60** and 3-dimethylaminopropyl chloride hydrochloride, a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.80 (m, 2H); 1.88 (m, 2H); 2.02 (m, 2H); 2.51 (s, 6H); 2.75 (m, 2H); 2.79 (t, 2H); 3.14 (t, 2H); 3.67 (t, 2H); 4.73 (s, 2H); 6.89 (d, 1H); 7.15-7.36 (m, 5H); 7.45 (d, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 420 (MH⁺).

c) *3-(6,7,8,9-Tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[1,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propylamine*

By the reaction of alcohol **60** and 3-aminopropyl chloride hydrochloride, a yellowish oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.41 (s, 2H); 1.75-1.87 (m, 6H); 2.77 (t, 2H); 2.85 (t, 2H); 3.12 (t, 2H); 3.64 (t, 2H); 4.71 (s, 2H); 6.89 (d, 1H); 7.14-7.36 (m, 5H); 7.45 (d, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 414 (M+Na⁺).

Example 9

Methyl-[3-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine

To a methanolic solution of *dimethyl-[3-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine* prepared as in Example 8b (1.0 mmole in 30 ml), sodium acetate trihydrate (5.4 mmole) and iodine (1.13 mmole) were added. The reaction mixture was illuminated with a 500 W lamp and stirred at ambient temperature for 5 hours. After the completion of the reaction, a 10% aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution was added to the reaction mixture. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was extracted with ethyl acetate. A crude product was purified by column chromatography to obtain a pure product in the form of a yellow oil.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.76-1.91 (m, 4H); 2.00 (m, 2H); 2.59 (s, 3H); 2.77 (m, 2H); 2.96 (t, 2H); 3.12 (t, 2H); 3.70 (t, 2H); 4.4-4.7 (b, 1H); 4.74 (s, 2H); 6.89 (d, 1H); 7.15-7.36 (m, 5H); 7.45 (d, 1H);

MS (*m/z*): 406 (MH⁺).

Example 10

a) *Dimethyl-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine*

To a solution of 2-dimethylaminoethyl chloride hydrochloride (6.0 mmole) in 50% sodium hydroxide (10 ml), a solution of alcohol **61** (0.6 mmole) in toluene (10 ml) was added. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux and vigorous stirring for 3 hours. Then it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane. After purifying by column chromatography, a yellow oily product was isolated.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.77 (m, 4H); 2.38 (s, 6H); 2.67 (m, 2H); 2.75 (m, 4H); 3.71 (t, 2H); 4.75 (s, 2H); 7.01 (s, 1H); 7.12 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.45 (m, 5H);
MS (*m/z*): 406 (MH⁺).

b) *Dimethyl-[3-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[3,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine*

By the reaction of alcohol **61** and 3-dimethylaminopropyl chloride hydrochloride, a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.78 (m, 4H); 1.99 (m, 2H); 2.49 (s, 6H); 2.70-2.80 (m, 6H); 3.65 (t, 2H); 4.71 (s, 2H); 7.01 (s, 1H); 7.12 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.45 (m, 5H);
MS (*m/z*): 420 (MH⁺).

c) *4-[2-(10,11,12,13-Tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[3,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-morpholine*

By the reaction of alcohol **61** and 4-(2-chloroethyl)morpholine hydrochloride, a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.77 (m, 4H); 2.53 (b, 4H); 2.66 (m, 2H); 2.75 (m, 4H); 3.70-3.75 (m, 6H); 4.75 (s, 2H); 7.01 (s, 1H); 7.11 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.44 (m, 5H);
MS (*m/z*): 448 (MH⁺).

d) *1-[2-(10,11,12,13-Tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[*e*]naphtho[3,2-*h*]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-piperidine*

By the reaction of alcohol **61** and 1-(2-chloroethyl)piperidine hydrochloride, a yellow oily product was obtained.

¹H NMR (ppm, CDCl₃): 1.45 (m, 2H); 1.65 (m, 4H); 1.77 (m, 4H); 2.52 (m, 4H); 2.66 (m, 2H); 2.75 (m, 4H); 3.73 (t, 2H); 4.74 (s, 2H); 7.01 (s, 1H); 7.12 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.44 (m, 5H);

MS (m/z): 446 (MH^+).

e) *1-[2-(10,11,12,13-Tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-pyrrolidine*

By the reaction of alcohol **61** and 1-(2-chloroethyl)pyrrolidine hydrochloride, a yellow oily product was obtained.

1H NMR (ppm, $CDCl_3$): 1.78 (m, 4H); 1.92 (b, 4H); 2.74-2.94 (m, 10H); 3.84 (b, 2H); 4.76 (s, 2H); 7.01 (s, 1H); 7.12 (s, 1H); 7.15-7.45 (m, 5H);

MS (m/z): 432 (MH^+).

f) *Dimethyl-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine*

Dimethyl-[1-methyl-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine

By the reaction of alcohol **61** and 1-dimethylamino-2-propyl chloride hydrochloride, two products were obtained, which were separated and purified by column chromatography to give yellow oily substances, namely:

dimethyl-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

1H NMR (ppm, $CDCl_3$): 1.25 (d, 3H); 1.77 (m, 4H); 2.36 (s, 6H); 2.40 (m, 1H); 2.60 (m, 1H); 2.75 (m, 4H); 3.90 (b, 1H); 4.80 (m, 2H); 7.00 (s, 1H); 7.12 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.45 (m, 5H);

MS (m/z): 420 (MH^+), and

dimethyl-[1-methyl-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;

1H NMR (ppm, $CDCl_3$): 1.04 (d, 3H); 1.77 (m, 4H); 2.33 (s, 6H); 2.75 (m, 4H); 2.85 (m, 1H); 3.45 (m, 1H); 3.59 (m, 1H); 4.74 (s, 2H); 7.01 (s, 1H); 7.12 (s, 1H); 7.14-7.44 (m, 5H);

MS (m/z): 420 (MH^+).

PREPARATION OF STARTING SUBSTANCES

Process A

1-[2-(Naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]-ethanone (1; Table 2)

A mixture of 2-naphthol (0.035 mole), 2-chloroacetophenone (0.026 mole), potassium carbonate (0.040 mole) and CuCl (100 mg) in isoamyl alcohol (3 ml) was refluxed overnight. Then the reaction mixture was filtered and the precipitate was washed a few times with ethyl acetate and then the filtrate was washed with a 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution and water. The solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the residue was distilled under high vacuum to give a pure product in the form of a light yellow liquid.

Process B

1-Morpholine-4-yl-2-[2-(naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]-ethanethione (2; Table 2)

A mixture of the compound **1** (0.058 mole), morpholine (0.08 mole) and sulfur (0.087 mole) was refluxed for about 3 hours. After the completion of the reaction the mixture was poured into hot ethanol, wherefrom the product was precipitated by cooling.

Process C1

2-(Naphthalene-2-ylsulfanyl)-benzoic acid (3; Table 2)

2-Naphthalenethiol (0.06 mole), 2-iodobenzoic acid (0.60 mole) and Cu powder (1 g) were added to an aqueous potassium hydroxide solution (0.21 mole in 110 ml). The

reaction mixture was refluxed for 8 hours and then filtered. Concentrated HCl was added drop by drop to the filtrate up to an acidic reaction. The separated white crystals were sucked off, washed a few times with water and dried.

According to the same process, starting from 2-iodobenzoic acid and 1-naphthalenethiol, also 2-(naphthalene-1-ylsulfanyl)-benzoic acid (Table 2; compound 4) was obtained.

Process C2

2-(Naphthalene-1-yloxy)-benzoic acid (5; Table 2)

A mixture of 1-naphthol (0.03 mole), 2-iodobenzoic acid (0.03 mole), potassium carbonate (0.045 mole) and Cu powder (150 mg) in nitrobenzene or xylene (10 ml) was heated at 140°C for about 1 hour. After the completion of the reaction water (100 ml) was added to the cooled reaction mixture, the organic layer was separated and concentrated HCl was added to the aqueous layer drop by drop up to an acidic reaction. The separated product was extracted with ethyl acetate.

According to the same procedure, starting from 2-iodobenzoic acid and

7-methoxy-2-naphthol;

5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1-naphthol;

5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthol;

there were obtained the following compounds:

2-(7-methoxy-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-benzoic acid;

2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-1-yloxy)-benzoic acid;

2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-benzoic acid

(Table 2; compounds 6-8)

Process D

[2-(Naphthalene-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-methanol (9; Table 2)

To a suspension of LiAlH_4 in diethyl ether (0.1 mole in 100 ml), acid **3** (0.06 mole) was added step by step. After 2 hours of stirring the reaction mixture at room temperature, the excess of LiAlH_4 was decomposed by adding ether and water. The obtained precipitate was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to give a crude product, which was purified by column chromatography.

According to the same procedure, starting from compounds **4-8** the following compounds were obtained:

[2-(naphthalene-1-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-methanol;

[2-(naphthalene-1-yloxy)-phenyl]-methanol;

[2-(7-methoxy-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]-methanol;

[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-1-yloxy)-phenyl]-methanol;

[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]-methanol

(Table 2; compounds **10-14**)

Process E

2-(2-Bromomethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-naphthalene (15; Table 2)

To a dichloromethane solution of alcohol **9** (0.057 mole in 200 ml) cooled to 0°C , PBr_3 (0.019 mole) was added stepwise drop by drop and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for about 30 minutes. After the completion of the reaction the mixture was poured to cool water (100 ml), the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The dichloromethane layer was shaken once with a saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution, dried on Na_2SO_4 and evaporated under reduced pressure to leave a crude product, which was purified by column chromatography.

According to the same procedure, starting from the compounds **10-14** the following compounds were obtained:

1-(2-bromomethyl-phenylsulfanyl)-naphthalene;

1-(2-bromomethyl-phenoxy)-naphthalene;

2-(2-bromomethyl-phenoxy)-7-methoxy-naphthalene;

5-(2-bromomethyl-phenoxy)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalene;

6-(2-bromomethyl-phenoxy)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalene

(Table 2; compounds **16-20**)

Process F

*[2-(Naphthalene-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-acetonitrile (**21**; Table 2)*

To an ethanolic solution of bromide **15** (0.05 mole in 60 ml) NaCN (0.063 mole) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 hours. After the completion of the reaction ethanol was eliminated under reduced pressure and water (80 ml) and ethyl acetate (80ml) were added to the residue. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted two more times with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with water, dried on Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure to leave a crude product, which was purified by column chromatography.

According to the same procedure, starting from compounds **16-20** the following compounds were obtained:

[2-(naphthalene-1-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]-acetonitrile;

[2-(naphthalene-1-yloxy)-phenyl]-acetonitrile;

[2-(7-methoxy-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]-acetonitrile;

[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-1-yloxy)-phenyl]-acetonitrile;

[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]-acetonitrile

(Table 2; compounds **22-26**)

Process G

[2-(Naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]acetic acid (27; Table 2)

A mixture of **2** (0.04 mole), acetic acid (10 ml) and 50% sulfuric acid (4.5 ml) was stirred under reflux for about 5 hours. After the completion of the reaction the reaction mixture was poured into water (10 ml). The separated crystals were sucked off, dissolved in a 10% aqueous NaOH solution and the solution was extracted twice with dichloromethane. The aqueous layer was acidified with concentrated HCl up to an acidic reaction. The separated crystals were filtered and dried.

Process H

[2-(Naphthalene-2-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]acetic acid (28; Table 2)

An aqueous KOH solution (0.15 mole in 15 ml) was added to an ethanolic solution of nitrile **21** (0.045 mole in 60 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for about 10 hours and then ethanol was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with water and shaken once with ethyl acetate. The aqueous layer was acidified to an acidic reaction in order to separate the product.

According to the same procedure, starting from the compounds **22-26** the following compounds were obtained:

[2-(naphthalene-1-ylsulfanyl)-phenyl]acetic acid;

[2-(naphthalene-1-yloxy)-phenyl]acetic acid;

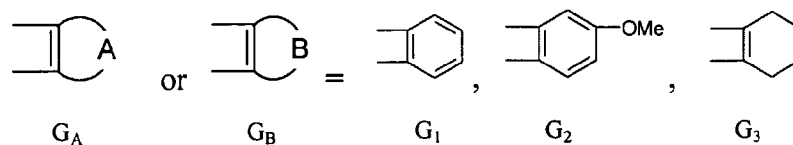
[2-(7-methoxy-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]acetic acid;

[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-1-yloxy)-phenyl]acetic acid;

[2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalene-2-yloxy)-phenyl]acetic acid

(Table 2; compounds **29-33**)

Table 2

Compounds of the structure VIII wherein $Y = Z = H$ 

| comp. | X | G_A | G_B | R^5 | MS (m/z) | 1H NMR (ppm) |
|-------|---|-------|-------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| 1 | O | | G_1 | COMe | 263 (MH^+) | 2.68 (s, 3H); 6.96-7.97 (m, 11H) ($CDCl_3$) |
| 2 | O | | G_1 | | 364 (MH^+) | - |
| 3 | S | | G_1 | CO ₂ H | - | 6.77-8.23 (m, 11H); 13.50 (b, 1H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 4 | S | G_1 | | CO ₂ H | - | 4.10 (b, 1H); 6.48 (m, 1H); 7.11 (m, 2H); 7.53 (m, 3H); 7.90-8.32 (m, 5H) ($CDCl_3$) |
| 5 | O | G_1 | | CO ₂ H | 265 (MH^+) | 6.77-8.20 (m, 11H); 12.98 (b, 1H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 6 | O | | G_2 | CO ₂ H | - | 3.82 (s, 3H); 6.88-8.14 (m, 10H); 12.93 (bs, 1H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 7 | O | G_3 | | CO ₂ H | - | 1.72 (bs, 4H); 2.61 (bs, 2H); 2.75 (bs, 2H); 6.52 (d, 1H); 6.81-6.88 (m, 2H); 7.06 (t, 1H); 7.20 (m, 1H); 7.49 (t, 1H); 7.79 (m, 1H); 12.83 (bs, 1H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 8 | O | | G_3 | CO ₂ H | - | 1.71 (m, 4H); 2.66 (bs, 4H); 6.62-7.88 (m, 7H); 12.5-13.0 (b, 1H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 9 | S | | G_1 | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.92 (bs, 1H); 4.86 (s, 2H); 7.28-7.90 (m, 11H) ($CDCl_3$) |
| 10 | S | G_1 | | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.79 (bs, 1H); 4.87 (s, 2H); 7.05-7.55 (m, 8H); 7.79-7.90 (m, 2H); 8.31 (m, 1H) ($CDCl_3$) |
| 11 | O | G_1 | | CH ₂ OH | 250 (M^+) | 4.61 (d, 2H); 5.22 (t, 1H); 6.78-8.18 (m, 11H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 12 | O | | G_2 | CH ₂ OH | - | 3.81 (s, 3H); 4.52 (d, 2H); 5.18 (t, 1H); 6.95-7.86 (m, 10H) (DMSO- d_6) |
| 13 | O | G_3 | | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.71 (bs, 4H); 2.59 (bs, 2H); 2.75 (bs, 2H); 4.56 (d, 2H); 5.16 (t, 1H); 6.51-7.60 (m, 7H) (DMSO- d_6) |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 14 | O | | G ₃ | CH ₂ OH | - | 1.71 (m, 4H); 2.66 (m, 4H); 4.52 (d, 2H); 5.14 (t, 1H); 6.60-6.67 (m, 2H); 6.79 (d, 1H); 7.02 (d, 1H); 7.12-7.26 (m, 2H); 7.52 (m, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 15 | S | | G ₁ | CH ₂ Br | - | 4.80 (s, 2H); 7.24-7.87 (m, 11H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 16 | S | G ₁ | | CH ₂ Br | - | 4.81 (s, 2H); 6.89-7.21 (m, 3H); 7.40-7.61 (m, 5H); 7.86-7.91 (m, 2H); 8.35 (m, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 17 | O | G ₁ | | CH ₂ Br | 312;314 (M ⁺) | 4.69 (s, 2H); 6.73-8.27 (m, 11H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 18 | O | | G ₂ | CH ₂ Br | 342;344 (M ⁺) | 3.83 (s, 3H); 4.73 (s, 2H); 6.93-7.90 (m, 10H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 19 | O | G ₃ | | CH ₂ Br | 316;318 (M ⁺) | 1.71 (bs, 4H); 2.61 (bs, 2H); 2.76 (bs, 2H); 4.74 (d, 2H); 6.58 (d, 1H); 6.68 (d, 1H); 6.93 (d, 1H); 7.02-7.36 (m, 3H); 7.53 (d, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 20 | O | | G ₃ | CH ₂ Br | 316;318 (M ⁺) | 1.72 (m, 4H); 2.69 (bs, 4H); 4.70 (s, 2H); 6.72-6.80 (m, 3H); 7.06-7.12 (m, 2H); 7.30 (m, 1H); 7.53 (d, 1H) (DMSO <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 21 | S | | G ₁ | CH ₂ CN | 276 (MH ⁺) | - |
| 22 | S | G ₁ | | CH ₂ CN | 276 (MH ⁺) | - |
| 23 | O | G ₁ | | CH ₂ CN | 259 (M ⁺) | 3.87 (s, 2H); 6.73-8.28 (m, 11H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 24 | O | | G ₂ | CH ₂ CN | 290 (MH ⁺) | 3.84 (s, 3H); 4.02 (s, 2H); 6.96-7.91 (m, 10H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 25 | O | G ₃ | | CH ₂ CN | - | 1.71 (bs, 4H); 2.59 (bs, 2H); 2.77 (bs, 2H); 4.00 (s, 2H); 6.54-6.70 (m, 2H); 6.95 (d, 1H); 7.03-7.31 (m, 3H); 7.47 (d, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 26 | O | | G ₃ | CH ₂ CN | 264 (MH ⁺) | 1.72 (m, 4H); 2.67 (m, 4H); 3.96 (s, 2H); 6.61-7.49 (m, 7H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 27 | O | | G ₁ | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | - | 3.63 (s, 2H); 6.92-7.97 (m, 11H); 12.25 (bs, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 28 | S | | G ₁ | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | - | 3.91 (s, 2H); 7.28-7.82 (m, 11H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 29 | S | G ₁ | | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | - | 3.90 (s, 2H); 6.97 (d, 1H); 7.18-7.69 (m, 7H); 8.01-8.10 (m, 2H); 8.24 (m, 1H); 12.60 (b, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 30 | O | G ₁ | | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | - | 3.68 (s, 2H); 6.71-8.13 (m, 11H); 12.32 (bs, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 31 | O | | G ₂ | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | 309 (MH ⁺) | 3.60 (s, 2H); 3.82 (s, 3H); 6.93-7.42 (m, 8H); 7.78-7.86 (m, 2H); 12.14 (bs, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 32 | O | G ₃ | | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | - | 1.71 (bs, 4H); 2.58 (bs, 2H); 2.75 (bs, 2H); 3.59 (s, 2H); 6.55-6.63 (m, 2H); 6.88 (d, 1H); 7.01-7.34 (m, 4H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
| 33 | O | | G ₃ | CH ₂ CO ₂ H | - | 1.71 (m, 4H); 2.66 (m, 4H); 3.58 (s, 2H); 6.63-7.35 (m, 7H); 12.17 (bs, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |

Process I

13H-5-Oxa-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-12-one (**34**; Table 3)

A mixture of an acid **27** and polyphosphoric acid (PPA; 3.0 g in 30 g) was vigorously stirred at 100°C for about 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then poured into water and extracted three times with dichloromethane. The dichloromethane layer was dried on Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure to leave a crude product, which may be purified by column chromatography or recrystallization.

According to the same procedure, starting from the compounds **28-33** following compounds were obtained:

13H-5-thia-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-12-one;

8H-13-thia-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-7-one;

8H-13-oxa-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-a]naphthalene-7-one;

8-methoxy-13H-5-oxa-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-12-one;

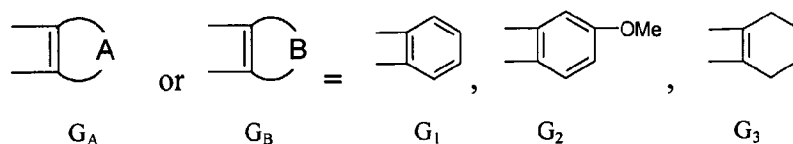
1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-8H-13-oxa-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-a]naphthalene-7-one;

7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-13H-5-oxa-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-12-one

(Table 3; compounds **35-40**)

Table 3

Compounds of the formula VI wherein Y = Z = H



| comp. | X | G_A | G_B | MS (m/z) | ^1H NMR (ppm) |
|-------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| 34 | O | | G_1 | 261 (MH^+) | 4.22 (s, 2H); 7.12-7.99 (m, 9H); 8.66 (s, 1H) (CDCl_3) |
| 35 | S | | G_1 | - | 4.55 (s, 2H); 7.19-7.93 (m, 8H); 8.11 (s, 1H); 8.78 (s, 1H) (CDCl_3) |
| 36 | S | G_1 | | - | 4.55 (s, 2H); 7.06-8.32 (m, 9H); 8.91 (m, 1H) (CDCl_3) |
| 37 | O | G_1 | | 261 (MH^+) | 4.20 (s, 2H); 7.15-7.84 (m, 8H); 8.04 (d, 1H); 8.77 (m, 1H) (CDCl_3) |
| 38 | O | | G_2 | 291 (MH^+) | 3.94 (s, 3H); 4.19 (s, 2H); 7.07-7.35 (m, 6H); 7.66 (s, 1H); 7.79 (d, 1H); 8.57 (s, 1H) ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) |
| 39 | O | G_3 | | 265 (MH^+) | 1.70-1.90 (m, 4H); 2.78 (m, 2H); 3.04 (m, 2H); 4.08 (s, 2H); 6.97 (d, 1H); 7.22-7.44 (m, 4H); 7.66 (d, 1H) ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) |
| 40 | O | | G_3 | 265 (MH^+) | 1.72 (m, 4H); 2.71 (bs, 2H); 2.80 (bs, 2H); 4.08 (s, 2H); 7.18 (s, 1H); 7.20-7.43 (m, 4H); 7.61 (s, 1H) ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) |

Process J

12-Chloro-5-oxa-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-13-carbaldehyde (41;
Table 4)

A trichloroethene solution of the compound **34** (0.008 mole in 5 ml) was added drop by drop to a solution of Vilsmeier-Hack reagent in trichloroethene (0.01 mole in 5 ml). The reaction mixture was then refluxed for about 6 hours, whereupon it was cooled and 20 ml of a 50% aqueous sodium acetate solution were added stepwise drop by drop thereto. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with dichloromethane. The dichloromethane layers dried on Na_2SO_4 were evaporated under reduced pressure to leave a crude product, which may be purified by recrystallization or column chromatography.

According to the same procedure, starting from the compounds **35-40** the following compounds were obtained:

12-chloro-5-thia-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-13-carbaldehyde;

7-chloro-13-thia-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-a]naphthalene-8-carbaldehyde;

7-chloro-13-oxa-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-a]naphthalene-8-carbaldehyde;

12-chloro-8-methoxy-5-oxa-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-13-carbaldehyde;

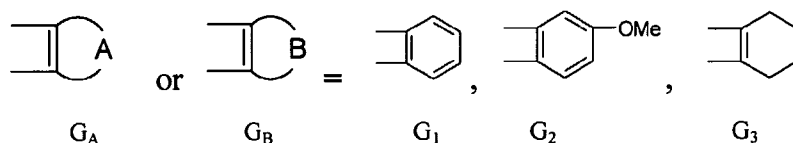
7-chloro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-13-oxa-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-a]naphthalene-8-carbaldehyde;

12-chloro-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-5-oxa-benzo[4,5]cyclohepta[1,2-b]naphthalene-13-carbaldehyde

(Table 4; compounds **42-47**)

Table 4

Compounds of the formula III wherein Y = Z = H

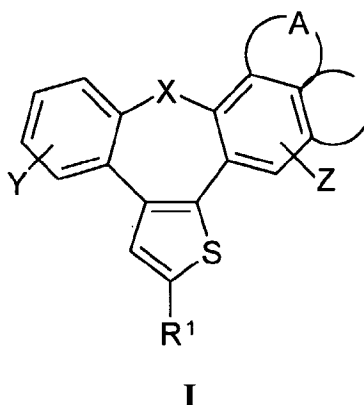


| comp. | X | G _A | G _B | MS (m/z) | ¹ H NMR (ppm) |
|-------|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 41 | O | | G ₁ | - | 7.19-7.94 (m, 9H); 8.38 (s, 1H); 10.73 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 42 | S | | G ₁ | - | 7.18-7.91 (m, 8H); 8.07 (s, 1H); 8.32 (s, 1H); 10.75 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 43 | S | G ₁ | | - | 7.03-8.25 (m, 9H); 8.94 (m, 1H); 10.79 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 44 | O | G ₁ | | 307 (MH ⁺) | 7.18-7.87 (m, 9H); 8.65 (d, 1H); 10.73 (s, 1H) (CDCl ₃) |
| 45 | O | | G ₂ | 337 (MH ⁺) | 3.91 (s, 3H); 7.20-7.49 (m, 6H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 8.04 (d, 1H); 8.48 (s, 1H); 10.73 (s, 1H) (DMSO-d ₆) |
| 46 | O | G ₃ | | 311 (MH ⁺) | 1.65-1.85 (m, 4H); 2.76 (m, 2H); 3.02 (bs, 2H); 7.11 (d, 1H); 7.23-7.47 (m, 4H); 7.56 (d, 1H); 10.51 (s, 1H) (DMSO-d ₆) |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|--|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| 47 | O | | G ₃ | 311 (MH ⁺) | 1.71 (m, 4H); 2.70-2.77 (m, 4H); 7.14 (s, 1H); 7.21-7.47 (m, 4H); 7.52 (s, 1H); 10.52 (s, 1H) (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆) |
|----|---|--|----------------|---------------------------|--|

Claims

1. Compound of the formula I

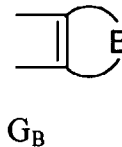
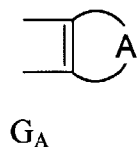


wherein

X may be CH₂ or a hetero atom such as O, S, S(=O), S(=O)₂, or NR^a, wherein R^a is hydrogen or a protecting group;

Y and Z independently from each other denote one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom, and may be halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, trifluoromethyl, halo-C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, amino, amino-C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkylamino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl, carboxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl, nitro;

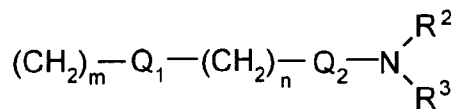
G_A or G_B:



independently from each other denote one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom, and may be halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, trifluoromethyl, halo-C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, amino, amino-C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-

C₄ alkylamino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl, carboxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro;

R¹ may be halogen, an optionally substituted C₁-C₇ alkyl or C₂-C₇ alkenyl, C₂-C₇ alkynyl, an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl and a heterocycle, hydroxy, hydroxy-C₂-C₇ alkenyl, hydroxy-C₂-C₇ alkynyl, C₁-C₇ alkoxy, thiol, thio-C₂-C₇ alkenyl, thio-C₂-C₇ alkynyl, C₁-C₇ alkylthio, amino-C₁-C₇ alkyl, amino-C₂-C₇ alkenyl, amino-C₂-C₇ alkynyl, amino-C₁-C₇ alkoxy, C₁-C₇ alkanoyl, aroyl, oxo-C₁-C₇ alkyl, C₁-C₇ alkanoyloxy, carboxy, an optionally substituted C₁-C₇ alkyloxy carbonyl or aryloxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C₁-C₇-alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₇-alkyl)carbamoyl, cyano-C₁-C₇ alkyl, sulfonyl, C₁-C₇ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₇ alkylsulfinyl, nitro, or a substituent of the formula II



II

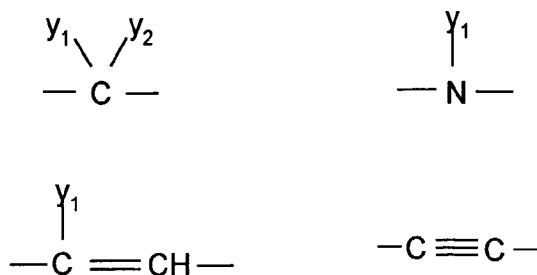
wherein

R² and R³ simultaneously or independently from each other may be hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, aryl or together with N have the meaning of an optionally substituted heterocycle or heteroaryl;

n represents an integer from 0 to 3;

m represents an integer from 1 to 3;

Q₁ and Q₂ represent, independently from each other, oxygen, sulfur or groups:



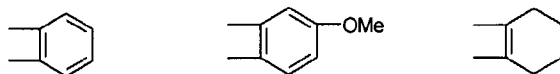
wherein the substituents

y_1 and y_2 independently from each other may be hydrogen, halogen, an optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 alkyl or aryl, hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkanoyl, thiol, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio, sulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulfinyl, nitro or together form carbonyl or imino group; as well as pharmacologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

2. Compound according to claim 1, wherein X has a meaning of S or O.

3. Compound according to claim 2, wherein Y and Z have a meaning of H.

4. Compound according to claim 3, wherein G_A or G_B have a meaning of structures



5. Compound according to claim 4, wherein R^1 has a meaning of CO_2Et , CH_2OH .

6. Compound according to claim 4, wherein R^1 has a meaning of the formula II.

7. Compound according to claim 6, wherein the symbol m has the meaning of 1, n has the meaning of 1 or 2, Q_1 has the meaning of O and Q_2 has the meaning of CH_2 .

8. Compound according to claim 7, wherein R^2 and/or R^3 have the meaning of H, CH_3 or together with N the meaning of morpholine-4-yl, piperidine-1-yl or pyrrolidine-1-yl.

9. Selected compounds according to claim 5:

8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
1,8-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
11-methoxy-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
(8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;
(1,8-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;
(3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;
(10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;
(11-methoxy-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;
(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol;
(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-yl)-methanol.

10. Selected compounds and salts according to claim 8:

dimethyl-[2-(8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;
dimethyl-[3-(8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;
3-(8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propylamine;
dimethyl-[3-(1,8-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;
dimethyl-[2-(3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;
dimethyl-[3-(3,10-dithia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[2-(10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[3-(10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[3-(11-methoxy-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[2-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[3-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

3-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propylamine;

methyl-[3-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-10-oxa-3-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[1,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[3-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

4-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-morpholine;

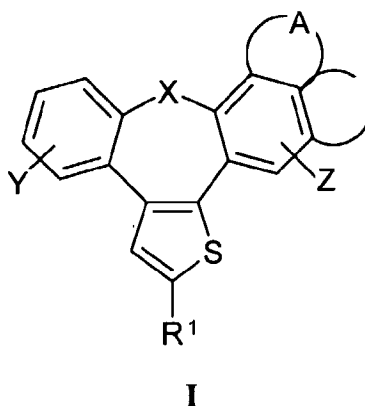
1-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-piperidine;

1-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-pyrrolidine;

dimethyl-[2-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-propyl]-amine;

dimethyl-[1-methyl-(10,11,12,13-tetrahydro-8-oxa-1-thia-benzo[e]naphtho[3,2-h]azulene-2-ylmethoxy)-ethyl]-amine.

11. Process for the preparation of the compounds of the formula I

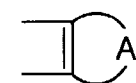


wherein

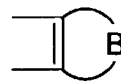
X may be CH₂ or a hetero atom such as O, S, S(=O), S(=O)₂, or NR^a, wherein R^a is hydrogen or a protecting group;

Y and Z independently from each other denote one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom, and may be halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, trifluoromethyl, halo-C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, amino, amino-C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkylamino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl, carboxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro;

G_A or G_B:



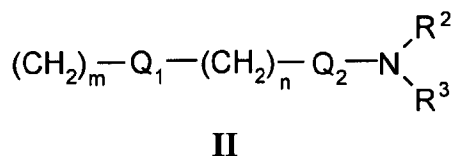
G_A



G_B

independently from each other denote one or more identical or different substituents linked to any available carbon atom, and may be halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, trifluoromethyl, halo-C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, amino, amino-C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkylamino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, *N,N*-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, thiol, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, sulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl, carboxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro;

R^1 may be halogen, an optionally substituted C_1 - C_7 alkyl or C_2 - C_7 alkenyl, C_2 - C_7 alkynyl, an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl and a heterocycle, hydroxy, hydroxy- C_2 - C_7 alkenyl, hydroxy- C_2 - C_7 alkynyl, C_1 - C_7 alkoxy, thiol, thio- C_2 - C_7 alkenyl, thio- C_2 - C_7 alkynyl, C_1 - C_7 alkylthio, amino- C_1 - C_7 alkyl, amino- C_2 - C_7 alkenyl, amino- C_2 - C_7 alkynyl, amino- C_1 - C_7 alkoxy, C_1 - C_7 alkanoyl, aroyl, oxo- C_1 - C_7 alkyl, C_1 - C_7 alkanoyloxy, carboxy, an optionally substituted C_1 - C_7 alkoxycarbonyl or aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, N -(C_1 - C_7 -alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -di(C_1 - C_7 -alkyl)carbamoyl, cyano- C_1 - C_7 alkyl, sulfonyl, C_1 - C_7 alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C_1 - C_7 alkylsulfinyl, nitro, or a substituent of the formula II



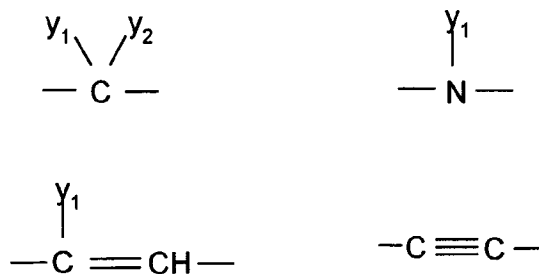
wherein

R^2 and R^3 simultaneously or independently from each other may be hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, aryl or together with N have the meaning of an optionally substituted heterocycle or heteroaryl;

n represents an integer from 0 to 3;

m represents an integer from 1 to 3;

Q_1 and Q_2 represent, independently from each other, oxygen, sulfur or groups:



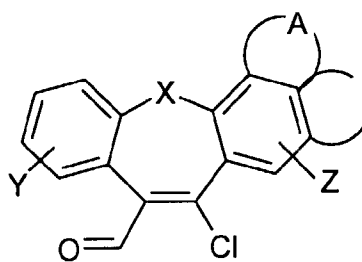
wherein the substituents

y_1 and y_2 independently from each other may be hydrogen, halogen, an optionally substituted C_1 - C_4 alkyl or aryl, hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkanoyl, thiol, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio, sulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulfonyl, sulfinyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulfinyl, nitro or together form carbonyl or imino group;

as well as of pharmacologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof,

characterized in that the preparation processes comprise

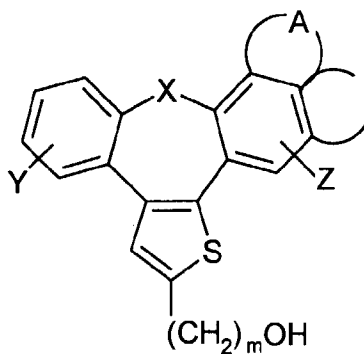
a) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein R^1 is alkyloxycarbonyl,
a cyclisation of a compound of the formula III



III

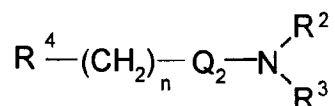
with esters of mercaptoacetic acid;

b) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has the meaning of -O-,
a reaction of alcohols of the formula V



V

with compounds of the formula IV

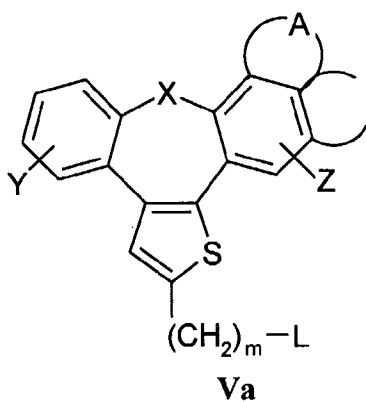


IV

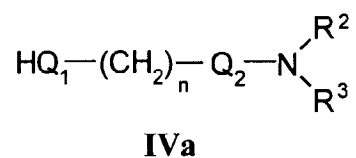
wherein R^4 has a meaning of a leaving group;

c) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has a meaning of -O-, -NH-, -S- or -C \equiv C-,

a reaction of the compounds of the formula Va

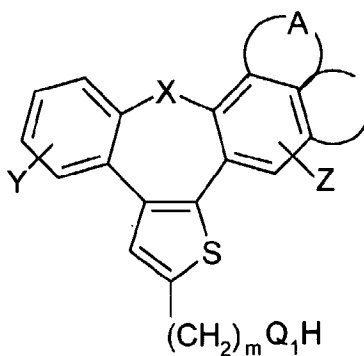


wherein L has the meaning of a leaving group,
with the compounds of the formula IVa



d) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has the meaning of a hetero atom -O-, -NH- or -S-,

a reaction of the compounds of the formula Vb



Vb

with the compounds of the formula IV, wherein R^4 has the meaning of a leaving group;

e) for the compounds of the formula I, wherein Q_1 has the meaning of $-C=C-$,
a reaction of the compounds of the formula Vb, wherein Q_1 has the meaning of carbonyl, with phosphorous ylides.

12. Use of the compounds of the formula I according to claim 5 as intermediates for the preparation of novel compounds of benzonaphthoazulene class having an antiinflammatory action.

13. Use of the compounds of the formula I according to claim 6 as inhibitors of production of cytokins or inflammation mediators in the treatment and prophylaxis of any pathological condition or disease induced by excessive unregulated production of cytokins or inflammation mediators in such a way that a non-toxic dose of appropriate pharmaceutical preparations may be administered per os, parenterally or locally.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internati Application No

PCT/HK 03/00014

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07D495/04 A61K31/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

CHEM ABS Data, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, EMBASE, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | WO 01 087890 A (PLIVA, FARMACEUTSKA INDUSTRIJA, DIONIKO DRUSTVO, CROATIA) 22 November 2001 (2001-11-22) cited in the application page 1, paragraph 1; claim 1 page 14, paragraph 4 --- | 1-13 |
| A | NYIONDI-BONGUEN E. ET AL: "4+2!-Cycloadditions of 3-Amino-4-imino-4H-thieno[3,4-c]1!benzopyran with some Selected Dienophiles" J.CHEM.SOC. PERKIN TRANS. 1, vol. 15, - 1994 pages 2191-2195, XP009014895 cited in the application Formulas 15 and 19 on page 2193 --- -/-- | 1-13 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 August 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/08/2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat Application No

PCT/HR 03/00014

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | <p>CAGNIANT, PAUL ET AL: "Study of the Vilsmeier-Haack reaction of tricyclic ketones: 10,11-dihydro-10-oxo-5H-dibenzo'a,d!cycloheptene, 10,11-dihydro-10-oxodibenzo'b,f!oxepin and 10,11-dihydro-10-oxodibenzo'b,f!thiepin. Synthesis of new heterotetracyclic compounds" COMPTES RENDUS DES SEANCES DE L'ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES, SERIE C: SCIENCES CHIMIQUES (1976), 283(15), 683-6 , XP001008270 cited in the application Formulas (Va)-(Vg), (Vj) and (Vk) on page 684 page 683, paragraphs 4,5 -----</p> | 1-13 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/HR 03/00014

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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